

In re the Application of BARRY DOUGLAS ARMOUR

U.S. Appln. No. 10/531,488

Attorney Docket No. 0074-516912

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(Previously presented) A truck comprising: a chassis supporting a cab; and a deck which is supported at least partly by a rearmost axle and wheels by a suspension arrangement, with a forward part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the chassis and a rear part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the deck or a deck support frame, wherein the deck is tiltable relative to the chassis about a pivot axis located in front of the rearmost axle of the truck and arranged such that as the deck tilts rearwardly, the chassis tilts forwardly and said forward part of the suspension arrangement moves upwardly relative to the deck, thereby lowering the deck towards the rearmost axle.

2. (Original) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chassis terminates forwardly of the rearmost axle.

3.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deck is supported by a deck support frame which is pivotally connected to the chassis at the pivot axis.

4. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deck is pivotally connected to the chassis at the pivot axis.

5.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the chassis comprises a pair of transversely extending arms which are pivotally connected to the deck or deck support frame to provide the pivoting connection between the deck and the chassis.

6. (Original) A truck as claimed in claim 5, wherein the outwardly extending arms are part of a chassis subframe member which forms a rearward part of the chassis.

7. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pivot axis is positioned forwardly of said forward part of the suspension arrangement.

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8. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suspension arrangement comprises leaf spring suspension.

9. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 8, wherein the leaf spring suspension comprises a pair of spaced apart leaf springs, with the rear ends of the leaf springs operatively connected to the deck or deck support frame, and the front ends of the leaf springs operatively connected to the chassis, so that as the deck tilts the front ends of the leaf springs move upwardly relative to the deck, thereby lowering the deck towards the axle.

10.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 9, wherein the chassis comprises a pair of spring connectors for attachment to the front ends of respective leaf springs.

11. (Original) A truck as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring connectors are carried by a chassis subframe member which forms a rearward part of the chassis.

12.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 9, wherein the deck comprises a pair of apertures, shaped recesses or moveable covers which enable the front ends of the leaf springs and/or the spring connectors to extend above a lower part of the deck when the deck is tilted.

13. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suspension arrangement comprises a pair of spaced apart leaf springs, with the front ends of the leaf springs operatively connected to the chassis, and the rear ends of the leaf springs operatively connected to the deck or deck support frame via respective air bags configured to enable air to be expelled as the deck is tilted, thereby further lowering the deck towards the rearmost axle.

14.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deck comprises a pair of apertures, shaped recesses or moveable covers which enable upper edges of the wheels to extend above a lower part of the deck when the deck is tilted.

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15. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, comprising an engine supported by the chassis, a driveshaft to transmit motive power from the engine and which extends rearwardly from the engine, and a differential to transmit motion from the driveshaft to the wheels carried by the rearmost axle, wherein the driveshaft comprises a pivot to accommodate changes in angle between the driveshaft and differential as the deck is tilted.

16.(Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 1, wherein the truck comprises a ramp at or towards the rear end of the deck and which is moveable from a storage position to a loading/unloading position to enable ease of loading and unloading of vehicles or goods onto and off the deck.

17.(Currently amended) A truck as claimed in claim 16, wherein the ramp is configured to automatically move to the loading/unloading position as the deck ~~is tilted~~, and to automatically move to the storage position as the deck is returned from a tilted position.

18. (Previously presented) A truck as claimed in claim 16, wherein the ramp is pivotally connected to the deck or deck support frame.

19.(Original) A truck as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ramp is foldable across its width, and as configured to automatically fold in the storage position and unfold in the loading/unloading position.

20.(Previously presented) A truck comprising: a chassis supporting a cab; and a deck which is supported at least partly by a rearmost axle and wheels by a suspension arrangement, with a forward part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the chassis and a rear part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the deck or a deck support frame, wherein the deck is tiltable relative to the chassis about a pivot axis located in front of the rearmost axle of the truck and in front of said forward part of the suspension arrangement and arranged such that as the deck tilts rearwardly, the chassis tilts forwardly and said forward part of

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the suspension arrangement moves upwardly relative to the deck, thereby lowering the deck towards the rearmost axle.

21. (New) A truck comprising: a chassis supporting a cab; and a deck which is supported at least partly by a rearmost axle and wheels by a suspension arrangement, with a forward part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the chassis at a chassis operative connection and a rear part of the suspension arrangement operatively connected to the deck or a deck support frame, wherein the deck is tiltable relative to the chassis about a pivot axis located in front of the rearmost axle of the truck and in front of said chassis operative connection and arranged such that as the deck tilts rearwardly, the chassis tilts forwardly to lift the forward part of the suspension arrangement upwardly relative to the deck, thereby lowering the deck towards the rearmost axle.

22. (New) A truck as claimed in claim 21, wherein the suspension arrangement comprises a spring, with a forward part of the spring operatively connected to the chassis and a rearward part of the spring operatively connected to the deck or deck support frame, and arranged such that as the deck tilts rearwardly, the chassis tilts forwardly to lift the forward part of the spring upwardly relative to the deck, thereby lowering the deck towards the rearmost axle.